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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,496	10/03/2003	Milan S. Blace	38777-0059	4551

26633 7590 08/24/2004

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & MCAULIFFE LLP
1666 K STREET,NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

LUCAS, ZACHARIAH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/677,496

Applicant(s)

BLAKE ET AL.

Examiner

Zachariah Lucas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, and 13-16, and 25-28 drawn to a method for enhanced production of bacterial toxins comprising adding a composition to a bacterial culture media that forms an insoluble complex with sulfate ions, classified in class 435, subclass 244.
 - II. Claims 1-6, and 10, drawn to a method for enhanced production of bacterial toxins comprising providing a culture medium that is deficient in sulfate ion metabolic precursors, classified in class 435, subclass 71.3.
 - III. Claims, 1-6, and 11, drawn to a method for enhanced production of bacterial toxins comprising culturing a bacteria in a medium deficient in sulfate ion metabolic precursors and comprising metal salts that form an insoluble complex with sulfate ions, classified in class 435, subclass 71.3.
 - IV. Claims 1-6, and 12, drawn to a method for enhanced production of bacterial toxins comprising culturing of a cysteine desulfonase knockout mutant bacteria, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.
 - V. Claims 17-20, drawn to a method of making a *Bordetella pertussis* culture medium comprising admixing an effective amount of a metal salt that forms an insoluble complex with sulfate, classified in class 435, subclass 244.

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VI. Claims 21-24, drawn to a *Bordetella pertussis* culture medium comprising a metal salt that forms an insoluble complex with sulfate, classified in class 435, subclass 244.

2. For each of inventions I-IV above, restriction to one of the following is also required under 35 USC 121. Therefore, election is required of one of inventions I-IV and one of inventions (A)-(G). Inventions (A)-(G) comprise the inventions of Groups I-IV wherein

- (A) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Bordetella*;
- (B) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Clostridium*;
- (C) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Staphylococcus*;
- (D) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Salmonella*;
- (E) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Shigella*;
- (F) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Vibrio*; or
- (G) the toxin-producing bacteria are *Escherichia*.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

3. Inventions (A)-(G) are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the different inventions relate to methods of enhancing the production of bacterial toxins in different bacterial genus. The methods each relates to the expression of a different toxin from a different bacteria, and are therefore performing different functions. As the methods are performing different functions, and are not disclosed as usable together, the inventions are distinct.

4. Inventions I-III are unrelated to invention IV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, inventions I-III relate to methods of culturing bacteria with enhanced toxin production by providing culture media wherein components of the media have been added or subtracted.

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Invention IV relates to a method of increased toxin production by genetic engineering.

Therefore, inventions I-III and invention III have different modes of operation. As invention III is not disclosed as usable with the other inventions, it is distinct from inventions I-III.

5. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. See MPEP § 806.05(d). In the instant case, each invention has separate utility as methods of enhancing bacterial toxin production. The combination of the inventions is for the same purpose. As each of the subcombinations has a separate utility, they are distinct.

6. Inventions III and I and II are related as combination and subcombinations. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination, comprising or two separately patentable subcombinations, does not rely on either one, but relies on the combination of the two for patentability. The subcombinations each have a separate utility for enhancing toxin production. Because the combination does not rely on either one subcombination for patentability, and because the subcombinations have separate utility, the combination and subcombinations are distinct.

7. Inventions V and VI are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the

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process used to make the culture medium for *B. pertussis* can be used to make materially different products. Medium that support the growth of different bacterium and block or inhibit different signal molecules may be made. Since the method can be used to make different culture media that allow for the enhanced production of different bacterial toxins, the process is usable to make different products. Therefore, the process and product are distinct.

8. Inventions VI and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product of using may be used with materially different process. The product of invention VI reads on water, or some non-toxic solution, that comprises a metal salt. Such a solution may be used in an electroplating process. Therefore, because the product may be used in a materially different process, the product and process of use are distinct.

Conclusion

9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in art because of recognized divergent subject matter and different classifications, and because the literature and sequence searches required for any one of the groups is not required for the others, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found

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allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP §

821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

11. It is here noted that some of the restrictions requirements made above fall within the scope of PTO Linking claim practice. In accordance with this practice as described in MPEP 809.03, linking claims will be considered with the elected invention. If the elected invention is found allowable, the linking claim will also be examined. If no substantive rejection is found for the linking claim, the restriction among the Groups it comprises will be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is considered a linking claim to the claimed methods.

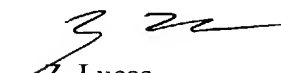
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12. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachariah Lucas whose telephone number is 571-272-0905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on 571-272-0902. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Z. Lucas
Patent Examiner


JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER